

In the Claims

Please amend original claims 1-20 as shown below:

1. (Original) A hydrophilic, water-wettable, semipermeable hollow-fibre membrane, based on a synthetic first polymer, particularly for hemodialysis, hemodiafiltration and hemofiltration, the membrane possessing an open-pored, integrally asymmetric structure across its wall, a porous separating layer with a thickness of 0.1 to 2 ~~urn~~ on its inner surface facing the lumen, and an open-pored supporting layer adjoining the separating layer, and having an ultrafiltration rate in albumin solution in the range of 25 to 60 ml/(h-m²-mmHg), characterised in that, after prior drying, the hollow-fibre membrane has a minimum sieving coefficient for cytochrome c of 0.8 combined with a maximum sieving coefficient for albumin of 0.005, whereby the hollow-fibre membrane in the dry state is free from pore-stabilising additives in the membrane wall.

2. (Currently Amended) The Hollow-fibre membrane according to Claim 1, characterised in that it also comprises a hydrophilic second polymer.

3. (Currently Amended) The Hollow-fibre membrane according to Claim 1, characterised in that the synthetic first polymer is a hydrophobic first polymer and the hollow-fibre membrane also comprises a hydrophilic second polymer.

4. (Currently Amended) The Hollow-fibre membrane according to Claim 3, characterised in that the hydrophobic first polymer is an aromatic sulfone polymer ~~such as selected from the group consisting of polysulfone,~~

polyethersulfone, polyphenylenesulfone or polyarylethersulfone, a polycarbonate, polyimide, polyetherimide, polyetherketone, polyphenylene sulfide, or a copolymer or a modification of these polymers, or a mixture of these polymers.

5. (Currently Amended) The Hollow-fibre membrane according to Claim 4, characterised in that the hydrophobic first polymer is a polysulfone or a polyethersulfone.

6. (Currently Amended) The Hollow-fibre membrane according to one or more of Claims 2 to 5, characterised in that the hydrophilic second polymer is being selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol, polyglycol monoester, polysorbate, carboxymethylcellulose, or a modification or copolymer of these polymers.

7. (Currently Amended) The Hollow-fibre membrane according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 6~~Claim 1, characterised in that the supporting layer extends from the separating layer across essentially the entire wall of the hollow-fibre membrane, has a sponge-like structure and is free from finger pores.

8. (Currently Amended) The Hollow-fibre membrane according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 7~~Claim 1, characterised in that it has a minimum sieving coefficient for cytochrome c of 0.85.

9. (Currently Amended) The Hollow-fibre membrane according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 8~~Claim 1,

characterised in that it has a maximum sieving coefficient for albumin of 0.003.

10. (Currently Amended) The Hollow-fibre membrane according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 9~~Claim 1, characterised in that a polyelectrolyte with negative fixed charges is physically bound in the separating layer.

11. (Currently Amended) The Hollow-fibre membrane according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 10~~Claim 1 with an ultrafiltration rate in albumin solution in the range of 30 to 55 ml/(h-m²-mmHg).

12. (Currently Amended) A Method for producing a hydrophilic, water-wettable, semipermeable hollow-fibre membrane ~~according to Claim 1~~, the method comprising the following steps:

- a. preparing a homogeneous spinning solution comprising 12 to 30 wt.% of a synthetic first polymer and, if applicable, other additives in a solvent system,
- b. extruding the spinning solution through the annular slit of a hollow-fibre die to give a hollow fibre,
- c. extruding an interior filler through the central opening of the hollow-fibre die, the interior filler being a coagulation medium for the synthetic first polymer and comprising a solvent and a non-solvent for the synthetic first polymer,
- d. bringing the interior filler into contact with the inner surface of the hollow fibre, to initiate coagulation in the interior of the

hollow fibre and for formation of a separating layer on the inner surface of the hollow fibre and formation of the membrane structure,

- e. passing the hollow fibre through a coagulation bath to complete the formation of the membrane structure if necessary, and to fix the membrane structure,
- f. extracting the hollow-fibre membrane thus formed, to remove the solvent system and soluble substances,
- g. drying the hollow-fibre membrane, characterised in that the interior filler contains a polyelectrolyte with negative fixed charges, as a result of which a hollow-fibre membrane is obtained with a minimum sieving coefficient for cytochrome c of 0.80 combined with a maximum sieving coefficient for albumin of 0.005.

13. (Currently Amended) The Method according to Claim 12, characterised in that the spinning solution also comprises 0.1 to 30 wt.% of a second hydrophilic polymer.

14. (Currently Amended) The Method according to Claim 12, characterised in that the synthetic first polymer is a hydrophobic first polymer and the spinning solution also comprises 0.1 to 30 wt.% of a hydrophilic second polymer.

15. (Currently Amended) The Method according to Claim 14, characterised in that an aromatic sulfone

polymer such as being selected from the group consisting of polysulfone, polyethersulfone, polyphenylenesulfone or polyarylethersulfone, a polycarbonate, polyimide, polyetherimide, polyetherketone, polyphenylene sulfide, a copolymer, or a modification of these polymers, or a mixture of these polymers is used as the hydrophobic first polymer.

16. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to one or more of Claims 13 to 15, characterised in that the hydrophilic second polymer being selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol, polyglycol monoester, polysorbate, carboxymethylcellulose, or a modification or copolymer of these polymers ~~is used as the hydrophilic second polymer.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to one or more of Claims 12 to 16Claim 12, characterised in that the solvent system comprises a polar aprotic solvent.

18. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to one or more of Claims 12 to 17Claim 12, characterised in that the polyelectrolyte is selected from the group consisting of polyphosphoric acids, polysulfonic acids or polycarboxylic acids.

19. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to Claim 18, characterised in that the polycarboxylic acids are

homo- or copolymers of acrylic acid.

20. (Currently Amended) The Method according to one or more of Claims 12 to 19Claim 12, characterised in that the proportion by weight of the polyelectrolyte relative to the weight of interior filler is 0.01 to 1 wt.%.